Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have proposals to develop teaching and learning material for disabled children:

(b) if so. the details thereof; and

(c) the availability of such material at present and participation of NGOs in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (c) Teaching and learning material at low cost lia\e alreadx been developed by the National Institutes in their respective area of disability. Non-Govemmental Organisations are also involved in the production and distribution of the material. This is a continuing process. Various national and State level organisations displayed llieir existing material at an exhibition jointly organized b> Rehabilitation Council of India and NCERT on 24th and 25ih March. 2000 at New Delhi.

Declaring Jain Sect as a Minority

†2545. SHRIJHUMUK LAL BHENDIA Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state ;

(a) the reasons for not declaring Jain Sect as a minority even through it is a totally independent and separate religion like Islam. Christianity and Hindu religion-.

(b) whether it is appropriate to pave the way for \\'elfare activities to ser\e the interests of other minorities by ignoring the followers of Jain religion who are original natives of India; and

(c) if not. by when the Jain Sect will be declared as minority on the basis of their number ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATl MANEKA GANDHI) .(a) to (c) The Question as to Who constitutes a minority is sub-judice under a Writ Petition ill the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The final decision in the matter of recognition of Jain Sect as minority will depend on the decision of the Supreme Court.

†Original notice of the question was received m Hindi.